

October 6th, 2017

To the Multi-stakeholder forum selection committee,

I am writing to submit my candidacy to join the Multi-stakeholder forum in order to support the ongoing dialogue between the Canadian Government and civil society on open government. I am applying in my capacity as Director of Powered by Data — a Canadian nonprofit organization which has been working with leaders in civil society, government, and foundations to help them better use, share, and learn from data since 2013.

My experience with open government and my desire to join the Multi-stakeholder forum is intertwined with the history of my leadership in the open data community. I have been working in open data since 2005 where I co-founded a number of initiatives — from national open data advocacy groups to hackathons. This volunteer work eventually led me in 2010 to found Ajah — a startup that uses technology and open data to offer online services to civil society. Right from the start — on top of our commercial services — Ajah started using its skills to help civil society organizations take advantage of data to facilitate collaboration, strengthen their advocacy, and become learning organizations. By 2013, it was clear that there was both sufficient interest and enough support for a dedicated nonprofit to offer this kind of assistance for the public benefit. It is then that I co-founded Powered by Data.

Part of Powered by Data's mission is to increase the supply of data available to civil society and government. This mission is aligned with the Open Government Partnership's (OGP) vision for more transparent, engaging, and accountable institutions and government. I believe strongly in the importance of the OGP and have steered Powered Data towards helping to strengthen it.

Under my leadership, Powered by Data has participated in multiple consultations both in-person and online to help drive and shape Canada's second and third biennial action plans for the OGP. For the second national action plan, this meant working with Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) — Ontario's independent civil society network focused on policy, advocacy, and services to create positive change for Ontario's nonprofits and charities — to develop a submission. Our proposal was about getting more information for the nonprofit sector to make better decisions and be more effective. As part of the consultation on the third national action plan, Powered by Data successfully submitted a proposal which was adopted as Commitment 11: Increase Transparency of Grants and Contributions Funding. Eighty organizations and individuals in the nonprofit sector stepped forward to support it, making it the highest voted on proposal in the consultation.

More recently, recognizing the importance of Canada's upcoming leadership role in OGP, I initiated a collaboration between Powered by Data and Canada's leading Open Government organization, Open North, to identify opportunities for Canada to develop its leadership role in the global open government movement. This led to the research and writing of our soon-to-be released report — *Canada in the World: Towards Canadian-Led Open Government*. Based on

the views of 13 Canadian open government experts, 6 themes were identified for this report in order to provide guidance for Canada's leadership role as a member of the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee.

I have also supported the Open Government Partnership through the creation of the [Canadian Open Government Civil Society Network](#), where we focused on establishing a permanent dialogue mechanism through which the government can co-create, implement and assess its work on Open Government. Our work as part of this network led to the creation of the very Multi-stakeholder forum which I am applying for today.

I am looking forward to continuing my work championing open government ideas and values on the national stage as a member of the Multi-stakeholder forum and believe that I would be an excellent candidate for this role. As a candidate I bring my technical experience working on data, but also my ongoing interest in representing civil society's needs as they relate to the Open Government Partnership's goals as well as the broader goals of government and civil society.

Finally, I currently represent Powered by Data on Imagine Canada's Policy Working Group on Data about the Nonprofit and Charitable Sector. I'm proud that Powered by Data finds itself alongside many of Canada's most credible voices on the first standing working group dedicated to examining the state of data about the charitable and nonprofit sector. The group's goal is to improve the availability and accessibility of this data so that charities and nonprofits are better equipped to serve the needs of Canadians. Through the existing relationships with both this working group and with other civil society organizations, I am confident I will be able to continue to advance civil society's agenda while at the same time working to increase civil society's engagement with the Multi-stakeholder forum and the larger OGP mission.

Sincerely,

Michael Lenczner
Director, Powered by Data

Michael Lenczner

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Michael Lenczner has over 15 years of experience working at the intersection of technology and the nonprofit sector. He splits his time between serving as the CEO of Ajah, a Montreal-based company that develops online tools for fundraisers, and being the Director of Powered by Data, a nonprofit initiative launched by Ajah that helps the nonprofit sector use data to increase its impact.

Michael founded *Île Sans Fil*, a community wireless organisation whose innovative sustainable funding model was adopted by similar organisations and was presented at several international conferences. He has worked in Burkina Faso to build up the IT capacity of a pan-African organisation. Working in open data since 2005, he has co-founded national, provincial and municipal data advocacy groups such as *Montréal Ouvert*, as well as coordinated numerous hackathons on issues such as sustainability, corruption and municipal service delivery. He has advised the Slovakian government on how to use data to increase the effectiveness of its grantmaking. He co-founded Ajah in 2010 and in 2013, Ajah created Powered by Data, which was quickly recognised as one of the [top 10 innovations in global philanthropy](#) by New Philanthropy Capital.

Michael is a frequent collaborator on academic-community partnerships and has published in academic and non-academic journal articles on new applications of data and technology in the areas of public administration and service delivery, policy development, and epidemiology. He also regularly advises federal and provincial government agencies on the use of open data.

Professional Work Experience

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| School Fellow <i>School of Public Policy</i> <i>Carleton University Ottawa, QC</i> | 2017-Present |
| Founder & Director <i>Powered by Data Montreal, QC</i> | 2013-Present |
| CEO & Co-founder <i>Ajah Montreal, QC</i> | 2009-Present |
| Board Member <i>Apathy is Boring Montreal, QC</i> | 2006-Present |
| Co-founder & Board Member <i>Île sans fil Montreal, QC</i> | 2003-Present |
| Advisory Council Member <i>CIC Advisory Committee on Social Innovation</i> | 2015-2016 |
| Member <i>Le Chantier sur la démocratie (Ville de Montréal)</i> | 2015-2016 |
| Board Member <i>Centre for Community Organizations Montreal, QC</i> | 2007-2011 |
| Strategy & Technology Consultant <i>Self-employed Montreal, QC</i> | 2003-2009 |
| Research Assistant <i>GameCODE Research Group Montreal, QC</i> | 2004-2005 |

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| Network Administrator <i>Institut Panafrican pour le Développement (Oxfam Québec) Montreal, QC</i> | 2002-2003 |
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| Research Assistant <i>GameCODE Research Group Montreal, QC</i> | 2006-2008 |
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Selected Publications

Hoan, A.G., Hladish, T.J., Eggo, R.M., Lenczner, M., Brownstien, J.S., & Ancel Meyers, L. (2015). [Epidemic Wave Dynamics Attributable to Urban Community Structure: A Theoretical Characterization of Disease Transmission in a Large Network](#). *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 17(7), 169.

Lenczner, L. & Phillips, S. (2012). [From Stories to Evidence: How Mining Data Can Promote Innovation in the Nonprofit Sector](#). *Technology Information Management Review*, 2(7), 10-15.

Charest, P., Lenczner, M. and Marceau, G., 2007. [The HAL project](#). *Linux Journal*, 2007(153), p.3.

Lenczner, M. (2005). [Wireless portals with wifidog](#). *Linux Journal*, 2005(140), 8.

Languages

English (Maternal); **French** (Fluent)

References to support Michael Lenczner's application to the Open Government Multi-stakeholder Forum

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